

THE PAPER MONEY OF ARGENTINA 1861 - 1872

PRIVATE AND PROVINCIAL ISSUES

BANCO DEL ROSARIO

The Banco del Rosario was established by law of 26 June 1865, assented to by the legislature on 16 August 1865. The initial capital was to be one million pesos divided into ten thousand shares at 100 pesos each. By contract of July 19, 1866, it will become the bank of the provincial government which will have a current account in pesos fuertes with a credit limit of 25,000 \$F. On September 13, the Banco Argentino will take over the assets and liabilities of this bank, which has been important despite its ephemeral existence.

The Banco del Rosario will launch a single issue of Bolivian silver notes, all without printing on the reverse, comprising four values.

SINGLE ISSUE

Note printed by Lit. L. Therier, Rosario.

½ real

payable 1 bolivian peso per group of 16 notes

PS- - SFE-50 BR-1E-1

Frame ≈ 100 x 45 mm



photo F. Chao (h) et Bauman

PS- SFE-50 BR-1E-1

1º DE JULIO DE 1866

date engraved in the plate (bottom of frame)

signatory : Manuel Carlés

ex collection Derman.

The following notes are printed by Lit. A. Larsch, Florida 103, Buenos Aires.

1 real

payable in Bolivian silver coinage in cash

PS- - SFE-51 BR-1E-2

frame $\approx 110 \times 55$ mm



photo F. Chao (h) and Bauman

PS- SFE-51 BR-1E-2

20 de **Febrero** de 1866 (001,957),

2 de **Abril** de 1866 (09,712),...

date completed by hand.

Six- or five-digit dialer.

Signatory : José Matías Gutierrez

1 ½ real

payable in Bolivian silver coinage in cash.

PS- - SFE-52 BR-1E-3

frame ≈ 117 x 63 mm



photo F. Chao (h) and Bauman

PS- SFE-52 BR-1E-3

20 de **Febrero** de 1866 (001,186),

date completed by hand.

signatory : José Matías Gutierrez ?

1 peso

payable in Bolivian silver coinage in cash.

PS- - SFE-56 BR-1E-4

Frame $\approx 145 \times 75$ mm



photo F. Chao (h) and Bauman

PS- SFE-56 BR-1E-4

20 de **Febrero** de 1866 (005,189),

date completed by hand.

signatories : José Fidel de Paz and José María Cullen

BANCO ARGENTINO

The Banco Argentino, which opened its counters in Rosario on September 1, 1866, was the first attempt to create a bank at a national level, with branches both in the capital and in the important cities of the interior. Based on the foundations of the Banco del Rosario by grouping José M. Mendez, Soaje Hnos., Julio Fragueiro, etc., its launch was strongly encouraged by General Urquiza, who acquired a thousand shares at one hundred pesos fuertes each, the equivalent of a good half a million gold francs or one hundred thousand dollars at the time. The headquarters of the bank was established in Rosario with branches in Santa Fé, Córdoba, Paraná, Concordia with its port on the Uruguay River, Gualetuy and Buenos Aires, and agencies for the exchange of banknotes in Diamante, Villa Urquiza on the shores of Paraná, as well as in Victoria and Nogoyá, in the interior of the province.

Three serious blows were inflicted on Banco Argentino : on the one hand, the assassination on 11 April 1870 of its main shareholder Urquiza ; on the other hand, the beginning of operations, on November 4, 1873, of the new Banco Nacional which opened branches in all the cities where subsidiaries of the Banco Argentino existed and in all the provincial capitals; the fatal blow that led to its closure at the end of 1876 was the international crisis that led to a rise in gold, the result of which was the inconvertibility of paper money. The fact that almost all the banknotes we see today are unissued copies seems to indicate that almost all of the issue was repaid when the bank was liquidated.

To simplify matters, we mention the notes issued by the branches with overprints on the Rosario head office after the respective notes without overprint. From 1871, these issues will be distinguished by the color of the paper and will be grouped by branch.

FIRST ISSUE

UNIFACE NOTES PAYABLE IN *BOLIVIAN SILVER IN CASH*, PRINTED AT LIT. A. LARSCH, FLORIDA 103, BUENOS AIRES

Initially, the bank seems to have continued to put into circulation the balance of the Banco del Rosario notes, before a provisional issue of own notes using elements of the plates of its predecessor was available, supplemented by new denominations.

1 real

payable one Bolivian peso to the bearer of 8 notes.

PS- - SFE-100 BA-2E-2

Frame $\approx 87 \times 43$ mm



PS- SFE-100 BA-1E-2

1^o de **Setiembre** de 1866 (completed by hand)

Large black number, black signature



PS- SFE-100 BA-1E-2

1^o de **Setiembre** de 1866 (completed by hand)

Smaller red number, red signature

BA-1E-2: 1 ½ Real plata boliviana: the existence of this note is unlikely. In the bank's accounts of 7 December 1867, there are mentioned 4070 notes in circulation, but this is probably the balance of the notes issued by the Banco del Rosario not yet exchanged, and not an issue of the Banco Argentino.

1 peso

payable in Bolivian silver coinage in cash.

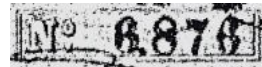
PS- - ENR-35 / ENR-66/ SFE-102 BA-1E-3

frame \approx 148 x 75 mm

Different dialers were used :



a - small 3,5 mm, 5 digits



b - medium 5 mm, 4 digits



c - large 5,5 mm, 4 digits

A comma separates
the thousands of the hundreds.



photo F. Chao (h)

PS-

SFE-102

BA-1E-3

1^o de Setiembre de 1866 (completed by hand)

Dialer (c).

signatories : Gaspar Rezia and Antonio Zubelzu,
for the manager and the president.



photo F. Chao (h)

PS-

ENR-35

BA-1E-3b

1^o de Set^{bre} de 1866 (completed by hand)

Black number (c) with separator.

With elaborate rubber stamp of the branch of CONCORDIA
signatories : José María Gutiérrez and Antonio Zubelzu, for the president.



photo F. Chao (h)

PS-1488

ENR-66

BA-1E-3e

1^o de Setiembre de 1866 (completed by hand)

dialer (b) with separator.

With elaborate rubber stamp of the branch of GUALEGUAY

signatories : José María Gutiérrez and, for the président, Antonio Zubelzu.

PS-1511 / BA-1E-4-c 5 Pesos plata corriente boliviana. Overprints PARANÁ. The existence of this note must be confirmed.

10 pesos bolivian money

payable in current Bolivian silver coinage.

PS-1512 / 13 ENR-37 / ENR-67A / SFE-104 / SFE-140 BA-1E-5

frame $\approx 173 \times 85$ mm



photo F. Chao (h)

PS- SFE-104 BA-1E-3

1^o de Setiembre de 1866 (completed by hand)

Without overprint

Serial number $\approx 26 \times 5,5$ mm

signatories : J. M. Gutiérrez and (illegible)



photo F. Chao (h)

PS- ENR- BA-1E-5-a

? de ? de 18?? (completed by hand)

Elaborate overprint of the branch of CONCORDIA

Number $\approx 12 \times 3,5$ mm

signatories : J. M. Gutiérrez and (illegible)



PS- ENR-37 BA-1E-5-a^{var}

1^o de Abril de 1872 (completed by hand)

Two overprints CONCORDIA

Serial number ≈ 12 x 3,5 mm

signatories : Francisco Puig ? and Ildefonso Medina ?



PS-1513 ENR-67A BA-1E-5-c

22 de Nov^{bre} de 1872 (completed by hand)

Two overprints PARANA

Serial number probably $\approx 12 \times 3,5$ mm

signatories : Francisco Puig ?and Manuel Carles.

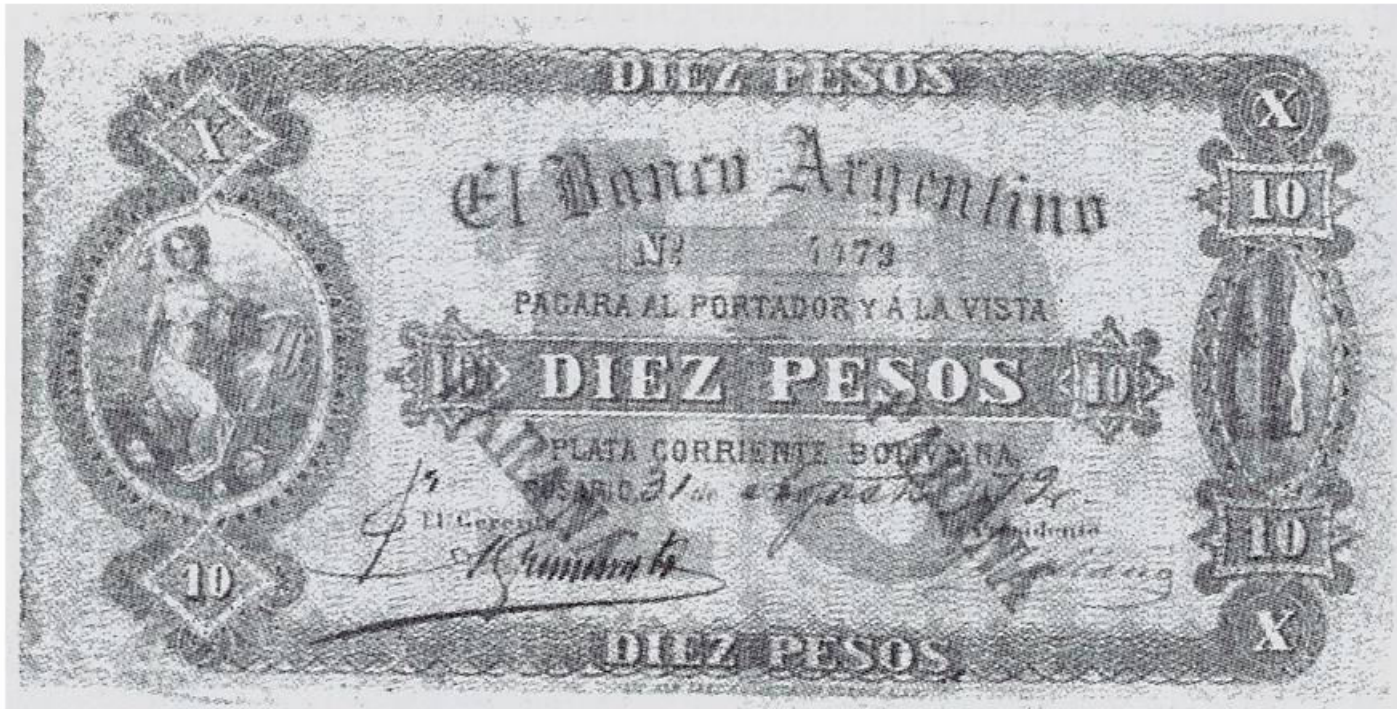


photo F. Chao (h)

PS-1513

ENR-67A

BA-1E-5-c

31 de Agosto de 1872 (completed by hand)

Two overprints PARANA

The layout of the overprints may vary.

signatories : (illegible) and Ildefonso Medina.

As for PS-1513, it must be the same type.



photo F. Chao (h)

PS-1513

ENR-140

BA-1E-5-d

6 de Agosto de 1872 (completed by hand)

Two overprints SANTA FÉ

Number $\approx 12 \times 3,5$ mm

20 pesos bolivian money

payable in Bolivian coins or the equivalent in legal coinage.

PS-1514

ENR-38 / ENR-67B / SFE-105

BA-1E-6

frame $\approx 168 \times 92$ mm

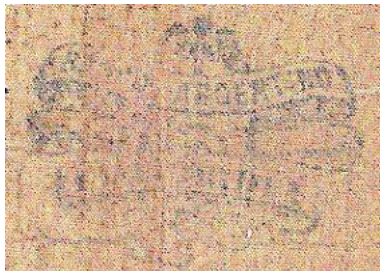


photo Bauman

PS-

ENR-38

BA-1E-6

1^o de Setiembre de 1866 (completed by hand)

Elaborate overprint CONCORDIA on the back

Serial number $\approx 20 \times 5,5$ mm

signatories : J. M. Gutiérrez and F. Medina ?

Two types of numbering can be found:

the first with four digits
about 6 mm high in blue ink,
and the second with five digits
about 4 mm high in black ink :



type a



type b

There are also two types of overprints:
The first, applied to the reverse in blue ink, mentions the name of the bank and the branch on an elaborate ribbon. The second, on the other hand, applied twice diagonally or vertically in black ink on the obverse, mentions only the name of the branch in capital characters 6 mm high.



photo F. Chao (h) / Bauman

PS- SFE-105 BA-1E-6

1^o de Setiembre de 1866 (completed by hand)

Without overprint

number $\approx 15 \times 3,5$ mm

signatories : (illegible) and Francisco Medina



photo F. Chao (h)

PS- ENR-38^{var} BA-1E-6a

21 de Setiembre de 1871 (completed by hand)

Two overprints CONCORDIA

number≈ 15 x 3,5 mm

signatories : Francisco Puig and Manuel Carles

PS- ENR-67B BA-1E-6a

? de ? de 18?? (completed by hand)

Overprint of the branch of PARANA

number ?

existence to be confirmed

2nd ISSUE – JANUARY 1, 1867

PAYABLE IN *BOLIVIAN SILVER COIN*

PRINTED AT C. HELD, ROSARIO

1/2 real Bolivian silver

payable 1 Bolivian peso in silver for every 16 notes.

PS-1516

SFE-122

BA-2E-1

≈ 92 x 48 mm



Photo Chao / Bauman / SCWPM

PS-1516

SFE-122

BA-2E-1

1^º de Enero de 1867

Only known sample to date

PS-1518 - 1 Peso plata boliviana : According to SCWPM, printed by C. Held in Rosario. The note would be dated 1.7.1869. Its existence remains to be confirmed. It could be the real PS-1519, with the same date, with the words UN PESO under the value figure (pagará a la vista UN PESO plata boliviana) ...

1st ISSUE IN PESOS FUERTES

F. Chao (h) mentions under *BA-2E-1 (?)* the possibility of the existence of a 5 pesos fuertes note based on an 1867 balance sheet showing that the bank had 2399 5- $\text{\$F}$ notes in circulation.

However, no copies are known at this time.

3rd ISSUE – NOTES PRINTED BY THE AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY

ALL NOTES ARE PAYABLE *IN BOLIVIAN SILVER OR ITS EQUIVALENT IN LEGAL COINAGE.*

For the issuance of the final notes, the bank resumed negotiations with the American Bank Note Company begun by the Banco del Rosario, by asking in addition a denomination of 4 Reales, essential for daily transactions. This issue has been the subject of four successive orders :

1. 07/1866 : 1, 10 and 50 \$ moneda boliviana, 50 centavos, 2 and 20 \$F. Paper of different color for each value. Rosario is engraved on the plate, the date, series letter and number being added in typography ;
2. 10/1866: 4 Reales and 5 \$ moneda boliviana. Details as for the first order;
3. 02/1872 : 5 and 10 \$ moneda boliviana. White paper with colored background varying according to the value. Details as for previous orders;
4. 12/1872: 4 Reales and 1 \$ moneda boliviana. Details as the February 1872 order.

The compilation of the printed banknotes was made based on the works of Ricardo M. Magan and Fernando Chao (h), as well as the SCWPM catalogue. For classification, issues from 1866 to 1868 were classified by ascending values, with notes without overprint first, and then those with branch overprints in alphabetical order of the latter. The archives of the ABNC^o give the details of the various impressions, and even if some of these notes have not yet been found, it is nevertheless more than likely that they were put into circulation. Recall that 20 Bolivian pesos or 20 pesos fuertes were about the equivalent of 20 US-dollars, and that very few people owning such notes at the time could have put them aside: it was more interesting to spend them !

All these notes have the same promise of payment : *The Banco Argentino will pay on sight and at the bearer ... Bolivian money or its equivalent in legal tender.* As for the dates and series, they change regularly, and the system will be specified for each denomination. Here is a correlative table of the serial letters and dates applicable to all notes issued before 1873, whether denominated in Bolivian pesos or strong pesos:

A	01.05.1866	I	01.01.1867	Q	02.09.1867	Y	01.05.1868
B	01.06.1866	J	01.02.1867	R	01.10.1867	Z	01.06.1868
C	02.07.1866	K	01.03.1867	S	01.11.1867	AA	01.07.1868
D	01.08.1866	L	01.04.1867	T	02.12.1867	BB	01.08.1868
E	01.09.1866	M	01.05.1867	U	01.01.1868	CC	01.09.1868
F	01.10.1866	N	01.06.1867	V	02.02.1868	DD	01.10.1868
G	01.11.1866	O	01.07.1867	W	02.03.1868	EE	02.11.1868
H	01.12.1866	P	01.08.1867	X	01.04.1868	FF	01.12.1868

As there were still large quantities of unissued notes from the various branches of this bank, we find some that were signed a posteriori by Peter, Paul or John, probably in order to increase their attractiveness and market value! Look at the serial numbers of the two banknotes below with the same date and series: the copy with the lower number is an unsigned remainder, while the other is signed!! However, it cannot be ruled out that the notes were not issued in numerical order, although this is unlikely. Caveat emptor !



As a rule, the notes offered on the market are unsigned remainders. Authentic authorized notes are very hard to get.

4 reales

PS-1458 / 1523

SFE-115 / ENR-39 / SFE-141

BA-4E-1

frame ≈ 135 x 59 mm



PS-1523

SFE-115

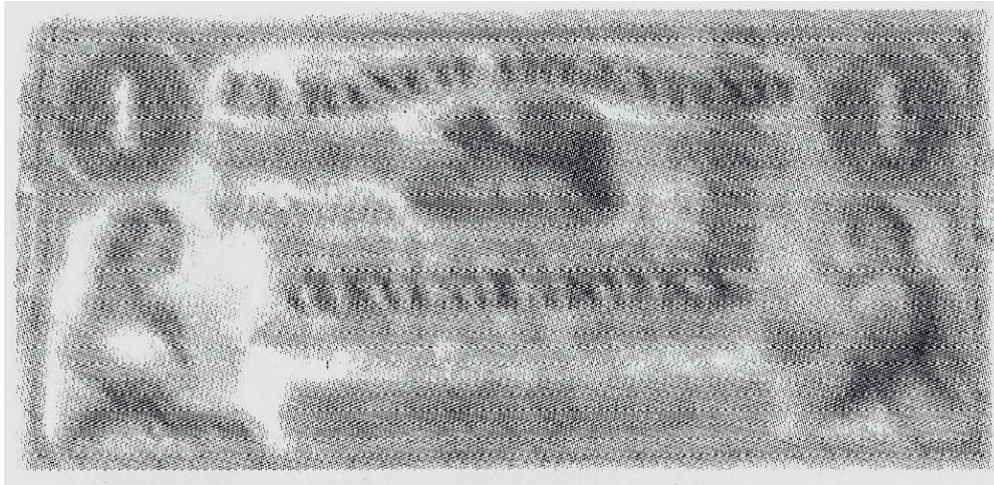
BA-4E-1

Printing of October, 1866 : 200'000
series A - H, n° 1 - 25000



Printing of December, 1872 : 600'000
series I - Z, n° 1 - 25000
series AA - FF, n° 1 - 25000

NB : The printing of December, 1872 is identical to that of
October, 1868, this denomination lacking underprint.



← PS-1458 ENR-39 BA-4E-1a
With overprint CONCORDIA
series H confirmed
photo F. Chao (h)



← PS- ENR-68 BA-4E-1(c)
With overprint PARANA
series C



PS-

SFE-141

BA-4E-1d

With overprint SANTA FÉ
series D

photo F. Chao (h)



photo F. Chao (h)

PS-

SFE-115

BA-4E-1m

Specimen with number **00000** and overprints
MUESTRA, no serial letter nor date,
with two cancellation holes.
Different dialer than normally used.

1 peso

PS-1525 / 1531 SFE-116 / ENR-41 / COR-48 / ENR-69 BA-4E-2

frame ≈ 160 x 73 mm

The engraving of the ostrich was made by Louis (Luigi) Delnoce.



PS-1531 SFE-116 BA-4E-2

blue paper

Printing of July, 1866 : 275'000

series A - K, nº 1 - 25000

Serial letter in the lower right corner,
between "1" and "EL GERENTE".

series K and L to be verified.

PS-1531 SFE-116 BA-4E-2

blue paper

Printing of December, 1872 : 400'000

series L - Z and AA, nº 1 - 25000

Serial letter between the upper guilloche
and the "1" at right.

According to the printer, the blue paper was only used for the July, 1866 order, up to K. The serial letter is placed under the number 1 of the background at the right, the year above this same number. From series L, the letter is placed above the 1 and the year after the month, on the left below “Rosario”. However, some series from letter L and beyond are printed on blue paper and not on white paper with a blue colored background (look at series Y below). Some indications are therefore to be checked.





← PS-1467 ENR-41 BA-4E-2

With two overprints CONCORDIA
series H

Note the low position of the serial letter and the year
placed between the guilloche and the "1" at bottom.



☐ PS-1467 ENR-41 BA-4E-2

With two overprints CORDOBA
series G, I and J verified

Note the low position of the serial letter and the year
placed between the guilloche and the "1" at bottom.
photo Stack's Bowers 14.08.2018



PS-1467 ENR-41 BA-4E-2

With overprint CORDOBA
series G, I and J verified

All notes of this branch office
have on the reverse the oval rubber stamp

PROVINCIA DE CORDOBA

V° B°

INSPECCION DE BANCOS

photo Gonzalo A. Ruiz





PS-1467

ENR-69

BA-4E-2-

With two overprints PARANÁ
series I

Note the low position of the serial letter and the year
placed between the guilloche and the "1" at bottom.

PS-1531 SFE-116 BA-4E-2m

Obverse proof on thin white paper
glued on cardboard.

In the signature space,

Overprints **MUESTRA** and **SPECIMEN**.



PS-1531 SFE-116 BA-4E-2m

Reverse proof in red.





Sheet of five notes of series M, May 1, 1867,
Serial numbers 17141 - 17145

5 pesos

PS-1526 SFE-117 / SFE-118 / SFE-144 / ENR-43 / COR- / ENR-71 BA-4E-3
frame ≈ 175 x 70 mm



PS-1526a

SFE-117

BA-4E-3

PS-1526a

SFE-117

BA-4E-3

Orange paper. Issued note
Printing of October, 1866 : 60'000
series A - D, n° 1 - 12000
no illustration available.

Orange paper. Unsigned remainder.
Printing of October, 1866 : 60'000
series E, n° 1 – 12000 ?



PS-1531 SFE-118p BA-4E-2m

Obverse proof on thin white paper with four holes in the signatures area.



PS-1526b SFE-118 BA-4E-3

White paper. Issued note.
Salmon underprint on the obverse.
Printing of February 1872 : 50'000
series F, nº 1 – 25000 ?
No illustration available to date.



PS-1526b SFE-118 BA-4E-3

White paper. Unsigned remainder
salmon underprint on the obverse.
Printing of February 1872 : 50'000
series G, nº 1 – 25000 ?



photo F. Chao (h)



← PS- ENR-43 BA-4E-3-a
Orange paper
With two overprints CONCORDIA
series C verified

PS-	ENR-43	BA-4E-3-b
Orange paper		
With two overprints CORDOBA		
series ?		

↙ PS- ENR-43 BA-4E-3-a
Orange paper
With two overprints PARANÁ
series C



photo Stack's Bowers 14.08.2018

PS- SFE-144 BA-4E-3-b

Orange paper

With two overprints SANTA FÉ

series A

signatories : J. M. Gutierrez and M. Carles

Signed notes should be considered with suspicion. Thus, the fact that the banknote below, No. 24500, is signed while No. 3163 is not, is suspicious, because at the time they were in principle put into circulation in numerical order, as they appeared in the registers. Be careful !



Banco Argentino Rosario 1866



1885 Banco de la Provincia de B^aA^s

Daniel J. Donovan did sign banknotes from the Banco de la Provincia de Buenos Aires in 1885, but the signature above appears to be a bad imitation.



For those who would give the benefit of the doubt, the same signature appears on a 20 pesos note, issued in 1873, but this time by the Córdoba branch. It is true that signed, these notes are rare, while as remainders, some are common.

10 pesos

PS-1527 / 1545

SFE-119 / SFE-145 / ENR-44 / ENR-72

BA-4E-4

frame ≈ 185 x 80 mm

PS-1527

SFE-119

BA-4E-4

Grey paper
Printing of July, 1866 : 40'000
series A - D, n° 1 - 10000
no illustration available.



PS-1527

SFE-119r BA-4E-4

White paper, greyish underprint. Issued note without branch overprint
Printing of July, 1872 : 50'000
series E and F, No illustration available.

PS-1527

SFE-119r

BA-4E-4

White paper, greyish underprint. Unsigned remainder.
Printing of July, 1872 : 50'000
series F, n° 2501 - 25000 ?





PS-

ENR-44

BA-4E-4-a

With two overprints CONCORDIA
series E

PS-

ENR-72

BA-4E-4-

With two overprints PARANÁ
series F ?



photo Stack's Bowers 14.08.2018

PS- ENR-44 BA-4E-4-d
With two overprints SANTA FÉ
series F

**SFE-120 / 20 pesos plata boliviana : although it is mentioned in Bauman, this note certainly doesn't exist:
it does not appear in the orders executed in 1866 by the printer.**

50 pesos bolivianos

PS-1529

SFE-121 / ENR-46

BA-4E-5

frame $\approx 200 \times 95$ mm

The vignette on the left, *the Bride*, was engraved by Alfred Sealey.



PS-1529

SFE-121

BA-4E-5

Green paper

Printing of July, 1866 : 10'000

series A - E, nº 1 - 2000

Almost all remainders are of series E.



PS-1529

ENR-46

BA-4E-5-a

With two overprints CONCORDIA
No illustration available.



photo F. Chao (h)

PS-

COR-

BA-4E-5-B

With two overprints CORDOBA
series C



↖ PS- COR- BA-4E-5
Reverse proof in red



← PS- COR- BA-4E-5
Reverse proof in blue

4^e ISSUE – NOTES PRINTED BY THE AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY

NOTES PAYABLES IN *PESOS FUERTES*

The serial letters and dates correspond to those of the 3rd issue. The values are complementary to those of the banknotes in Bolivian pesos.

50 centavos

payable 5 pesos fuertes to the bearer of every 10 notes

PS-1530 / 1466

SFE-107 / ENR-40

BA-5E-1

frame ≈ 140 x 60 mm

The rooster's vignette was engraved by John S. Davis.



photo www.cefynag.com.arg

PS-1530

SFE-107

BA-5E-1

Beige paper

Printing of July, 1866 : 200'000

Series A - H, n° 1 - 25000

PS-1466 ENR-40 BA-5E-1-a →
 With overprint **CONCORDIA**
 series A
 signatory : J. M. Gutierrez

PS-1486 COR- - BA-5E-1-b
 With overprint **CORDOBA**
 Cataloged in SCWPM, to be confirmed !



PS- - ENR-65 BA-5E-1- →
 With overprint **GUALEGUAY**
 seriesA
 signatory: J. M. Gutierrez

PS- - SFE- - BA-5E-1-d
 With overprint **SANTA FÉ**
 To be confirmed !





photo www.cefynag.com.arg et Chao (h)

PS-1530

SFE-107p

BA-5E-1-m

Unnumbered obverse proof on thin paper glued on cardboard, two cancellation holes.

The thin lines for date, series and number have been removed from the final plates.

PS-1506-50 centavos : according to SCWPM, this note would be dated 1.7.1873 and would have the PARANA overprint. Its existence still has to be confirmed.

The denomination of a *peso fuerte* mentioned under PS-1467 and PS-1531 does not exist, nor do those of 5 and 10 \$F (PS-1545 for example). It is very likely that the choice of denominations was made at the time in such a way to avoid confusion with the notes payable in Bolivian pesos and those payable in *pesos fuertes*.

2 pesos fuertes

payable 10 pesos fuertes to the bearer of 5 notes

PS-1532 / 1543

SFE-109 / ENR-42 / ENR-70 / SFE-143

BA-5E-3

frame \approx 175 x 70 mm

The Jaguar vignette is the work of Henry S. Beckwith.



PS-1532

SFE-109

BA-5E-3

Yellow paper. Remainder.

Printing of July, 1866 : 140'000

series A - N, n° 1 - 10000

Practically all remainders are of series I, between 1500 and 4200.



PS- - ENR-42 BA-5E-3-m
Form without date, series or number

photo F. Chao (h)

PS- - ENR-42 BA-5E-3-a

With overprint **CONCORDIA**
series A

signed by J. M. Gutierrez and C. Arias

Bauman mistakenly mentions this note
as 2 pesos plata boliviana.



PS- - ENR-70 BA-5E-3- -

With overprint **PARANA**
series A

signed by J. M. Gutierrez and C. Arias



PS-1543 SFE-143 BA-5E-3-d

With overprints **SANTA-FÉ**
On both obverse and reverse.

Series E, 1 - 5000 ?

(4662 and 4725 verified)



20 pesos fuertes

PS-1534 / 1543

SFE-112 / ENR-

BA-5E-6

frame ≈ 195 x 90 mm



PS-1534

SFE-112

BA-5E-6

Beige paper

Printing of July, 1866 : 20'000

series A - E, n° 1 - 4000





PS- - ENR-45 BA-5E-6-b
With overprint CONCORDIA
series A

PS- -	COR- -	BA-5E-6-a
With overprint CORDOBA		
series ?		
Chao mentions a sheet of two notes.		



000000000000000000000000

← PS- - ENR-45 BA-5E-6-m

Form without date, series or number.
3 cancellation holes

PS- - ENR-45 BA-5E-6-a

Reverse proof in red

